alignment as envisaged by the first Prime Minister of the country; and

(d) if so, what were the compulsions before the Government for abandoning the path of non-alignment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) India and US reached an understanding on cooperation in civil nuclear energy on 18 July 2005 during the visit of Prime Minister to US in the context of India's quest for energy security as an essential component of our vision of our development.

(b) Under the terms of this understanding, India will be identifying and separating its civilian and military nuclear facilities and programmes in a phased manner and filing a declaration regarding its civilians facilities with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and would place voluntarily its civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

(c) The understanding on cooperation in civil nuclear energy in no way compromises India's traditional non-alignment policy that mandates decisions to be taken on the basis of our national interests and national security considerations only.

(d) Does not arise.

ITER negotiations at Korea

446. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was on Tuesday December 6, 2005, admitted as a full partner into the consortium of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), at the ITER negotiations at Jeju-Republic of Korea;

(b) if so, what rights and obligations have been confessed on India thereby; and

(c) the precise constitution and functions of ITER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India is participating in the negotiations on a Joint Implementation Agreement as a full member. The Agreement is still at a drafting stage.

(c) ITER venture has seven parties, *viz.*, the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the Governments of the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States of America. ITER aims to provide the integration step necessary to establish scientific and technical feasibility of fusion as an energy resource.

Visit of Sri Lankan President

447. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan President visited India between 27 and 30 December, 2005 and held talks with the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held between them;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) the number of MoUs signed by both the countries;

(e) the complete details thereof;

(f) whether the Sri Lankan President had invited the P.M. of India to visit their country; and

(g) if so, the comments of the PM in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The two leaders reviewed bilateral cooperation and measures to consolidate and strengthen it. President Rajapaksa briefed the Prime Minister on his approach to the peace process and the Prime Minister reiterated India's support for a process of seeking a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all sections of Sri Lankan society within the framework of an undivided Sri Lanka and consistent with democracy,